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Title : Scarcity of drinking water in Chamarajnagar, Karnataka.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMARAJANAGAR) **:** Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter regarding shortage of drinking water in my constituency Chamaraj Nagar.

Sir, Chamaraja Nagar is one of the most backward districts in the country. Majority of its population belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. More than half of my district is hilly region. Shortage of drinking water is a burning problem in my district. People are facing great difficulties due to lack of drinking water. Chamaraja Nagar consists of assembly segments, namely, Naujangud, H.D. Kote, T. Narsipur, Varuna, Bahur, Kollegal and Hanur. In these assembly constituencies drinking water crises has reached its peak. Bore wells are drying up and ground water level has gone down. We are unable to get ground water even at the depth of 800 ft. Another shocking news is that the available

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~~*Original in Kannada.~~

water is contaminated with fluoride, which causes health hazards. So it is not fit for drinking. In this regard, last month, I submitted memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji, the U.P.A. Chairperson, Smt. Sonia

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*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada

Gandhiji and the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji to reconsider a reservoir project at Kabini river to provide drinking water to the people of 148 villages in my district. This project can also be expanded further to provide drinking water to another 300 villages. It requires a sum of Rs.105 crores. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to come forward and take up this 2nd phase of Kabini Reservoir Project with an allocation of Rs.105 crores, so that people of my districts get sufficient safe drinking water. I hope the Centre would take immediate action as it is the joint responsibility of the Governments at the Centre as well as at the State to ensure basic needs like food, education and water to its citizens. ~~Thank y~~